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February 16, 2017

Appropriations Committee
Senator Catherine Osten
Senator Paul Formica
Representative Toni Walker

Dear Senators and Rep. Walker,

I am writing in string support of funding for magnet schools. Our son Toby, who is in 8th grade, attends the CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering in Windsor, Connecticut. Despite earning the designation of "Gifted/Talented," there is no requirement in Connecticut for schools to provide any services for this group of students outside the mainstream. For years in our district school, my son was bored and disengaged. His learning style presented difficulty for his teachers, who could not create an educational experience for him that was interesting or challenging. Finally, at AAE, we have found an environment in which he is thriving both socially and academically. It is obvious that the staff are personally invested in engaging their students and making learning fun and exciting. We had considered private school and homeschooling, as alternatives which would provide our son with the stimulation he was missing, but both of these options would have been burdensome for our family. We feel very fortunate to have a free, public school alternative that has given our son the opportunity to excel and grow into his potential as a dynamic learner, in a school culture that values achievement and diversity. Our daughter Hazel is next. Please make sure these magnet schools can continue to provide excellent opportunities for families like ours.

Sincerely yours,

Deborah Popkin